



## Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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# Governor Dedicates New State Veterans Cemetery

## *Promises Veterans New Veterans Nursing Home*

(RADCLIFF, June 1, 2007) Governor Ernie Fletcher dedicated the new Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central here with a promise to provide more new facilities for the state's veterans.

"We will continue to support our veterans," Fletcher told a crowd of about 300, "with the new cemeteries we have planned, and by expanding the state veterans nursing home in Western Kentucky, and by building a new state veterans home.

"I think this area would be a great location (for the nursing home)," he said to the loudest applause of the day.

Fletcher opened with the story of famed World War I soldier Audie Murphy, who justified the killing of war only because it saved more lives.

"Like Audie Murphy, our veterans fight to save lives," Fletcher said. "Their fight and their sacrifice is to save lives because freedom and liberty are our best defense against tyranny all over the globe."

Fletcher closed by quoting the Gettysburg Address – ... **we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract ...** – and closed by saying:

"The same is true today. This consecration will be done by the men and women laid to rest here, who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Thank you to all of you."

U.S. Congressman Ron Lewis, William Tuerk, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, and Fort Knox Commanding General Maj. Gen. Robert Williams also spoke at the 1 p.m. ceremony.

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central is Kentucky's second state veterans cemetery. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West opened in Hopkinsville in March 2004. Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North, in Williamstown, is under construction and scheduled to open in late summer of 2008.

Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central is located on 99 acres at 2501 N. Dixie Highway in Radcliff, adjacent to Fort Knox. Construction included a 3,600-square-foot administration building, a 4,400-square-foot maintenance building with service area, a committal facility and a columbarium. It also has appropriate parking, road network, walking path and landscaping commensurate with the dignity and honor of a state veterans cemetery.

Construction and initial equipment for KVCC cost approximately \$8.95 million. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will reimburse the state for construction, and the state will pay the operating costs.